

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKARTA 03268 01 OF 02 131023Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04
MCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 HA-05 COME-00 OMB-01
IO-13 /087 W
-----088209 131029Z /15

R 130848Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7409
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 3268

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID, SOPN
SUBJECT: SPORADIC INCIDENTS IN JAKARTA MARK OPENING OF MPR

REF: JAKARTA 3124 (DTG 090922Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY. THERE WERE SPORADIC, SMALL-SCALE ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS, SPEARHEADED BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND IN JAKARTA. EACH DEMONSTRATION WAS PROMPTLY DISPERSED BY SECURITY FORCES, TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF WARNING SHOTS AND, ACCORDING TO SOME UNCONFIRMED RUMORS, FATAL INJURIES TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR BYSTANDERS. THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY, IS INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT WILL PREVENT ANY LARGE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKARTA 03268 01 OF 02 131023Z

SCALE BREAKDOWN IN ORDER. END SUMMARY.

2. TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE MPR SESSION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OVER THE WEEKEND STAGED A SERIES OF SMALL BUT LOCALLY DISRUPTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS AT SCATTERED SITES THROUGHOUT JAKARTA. THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 10, WHEN STUDENTS AT FIVE

HIGH SCHOOLS SUCCEEDED IN SNARLING RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY OF THEIR SCHOOLS WHILE THEY PASSED OUT PAMPHLETS AND, ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS, LAY IN THE STREETS. POLICE AND SECURITY TROOPS MOVE IN QUICKLY ON THE APPARENTLY COORDINATED DEMONSTRATIONS, FIRING WARNING SHOTS AND AT TIMES ROUGHLY DISPERSING THE DEMONSTRATORS. SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS, ON A SOMEWHAT SMALLER SCALE, WERE REPEATED ON MARCH 11-12, WITH SIMILAR RESULTS. THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN OR BYSTANDERS TO THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE FATALLY INJURED, EITHER BY SHOTS OR BAYONET ATTACKS FROM TROOPS. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO EVIDENCE TO DATE TO CONFIRM ANY DEATHS.

3. BOTH KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADM. SUDOMO AND JAKARTA (KODAM V) MILITARY COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. NORMAN SASONO PUBLICLY DESCRIBED THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' ACTIONS AS "SUBVERSIVE" AND PROMISED A CONTINUATION OF TOUGH GOVERNMENT REACTION. SUDOMO SAID THAT ABOUT 100 PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED SO FAR IN JAKARTA IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT HIGH SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES, ADDING THAT THE NUMBER IN DETENTION AT ANY ONE TIME IS "FLUID" SINCE ARRESTS AND RELEASES CONTINUE. HE THREATENED LONG JAIL TERMS FOR THOSE INCITING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE. NORMAN, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOME STUDENTS WERE INJURED WHEN SECURITY FORCES BROKE UP THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKARTA 03268 01 OF 02 131023Z

DEMONSTRATIONS, DENIED THAT ANY DEATHS HAD RESULTED OR THAT HIS TROOPS HAD USED BAYONETS. BOTH SUDOMO AND NORMAN DOWN-PLAYED AN EARLIER, OFF-THE-CUFF COMMENT BY A KODAM V SPOKESMAN THAT TROOPS HAD BEEN GIVEN AN ORDER TO "SHOOT ON THE SPOT" ANY DEMONSTRATORS. SUDOMO, WHILE NOT DENYING THAT STATEMENT, SAID IT REPRESENTED A "WARNING, NOT POLICY."

4. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY DEMONSTRATIONS OR TROUBLE ON ANY UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN JAKARTA OR BANDUNG OVER THE WEEKEND, THOUGH STUDENT STRIKES CONTINUE. SUDOMO ANNOUNCED ON SATURDAY THAT KOPKAMTIB HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE THAT ANY STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN ANY ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION, INCLUDING AN ACADEMIC STRIKE, WILL BE SUSPENDED. HE ALSO SAID THAT ABOUT 250 STUDENTS INITIALLY ARRESTED DURING THE LATE JANUARY SECURITY CRACKDOWN ARE STILL BEING HELD. HE ESTIMATED THAT 50 OF THEM ARE THE REAL RINGLEADERS AND WILL BE TRIED IN COURT, PROBABLY UNDER THE SUBVERSION LAWS. ANOTHER 150, WHOM SUDOMO DESCRIBED AS "BLIND FOLLOWERS," WILL BE RELEASED SOON. THE REMAINING 50, WHILE NOT CATEGORIZED BY THE KOPKAMTIB

CHIEF, ARE PRESUMABLY STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE
THE EXTENT OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN DISSIDENT ACTIVITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKARTA 03268 02 OF 02 131033Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-04

MCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 HA-05 COME-00 OMB-01

IO-13 /087 W

-----088268 131040Z /15

R 130848Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7410

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 3268

5. THE DAILY BERITA BUANA ON MARCH 11 CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH SEVEN JAKARTA COLLEGE STUDENTS RELEASED THE DAY BEFORE FROM DETENTION FOR DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES. THE STUDENTS, WHO WERE HELD AT AN UNSPECIFIED DETENTION CENTER IN THE CAPITAL CITY WHICH THEY HAD NICKNAMED THE "YELLOW CAMPUS," SAID THEY HAD BEEN WELL TREATED WHILE UNDER ARREST, LIVING THREE-TO-A-HOUSE IN A LARGE COMPOUND. THEY WERE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES WITH BERITA BUANA BUT DID NOTE THAT THEIR COLLEAGUES STILL IN DETENTION AT THE "YELLOW CAMPUS" INTENDED TO BEGIN A HUNGER STRIKE MARCH 11 TO "ENCOURAGE THE SUCCESS" OF THE MPR. THE NATIONALIST, OFTEN RAMBUNCTIOUS MERDEKA, INCIDENTALLY, IN ITS MARCH 13 EDITION, PROVIDED MUTED BUT FIRST HAND COVERAGE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN JAKARTA OVER THE WEEKEND. THIS IS THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 03268 02 OF 02 131033Z

FIRST TIME ANY PAPER HAS CHANCED TO REPORT DIRECTLY ON STUDENT ACTIVITIES (RATHER THAN QUOTING GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN) SINCE THE JANUARY 20 CRACKDOWN ON THE PRESS.

6. COMMENT. THE JAKARTA PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE SECURITY SITUATION. SOME AMERICANS WITNESSED OR HEARD FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS OF THE LOCALIZED DISRUPTION IN JAKARTA OVER THE WEKEND, AND THE RUMOR MILL AS A RESULT IS VERY ACTIVE. BASED ON OUR CONTINUING ESTIMATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN AND WILL SUCCEED IN PREVENTING ANY WIDESPREAD BREAKDOWN OF ORDER IN THE COMING WEEKS, WE ARE URGING MODERATION AND REASONABLE CAUTION ON THE PRIVATE AMERICAN COMMUNITY. SMALL-SCALE DISRUPTIONS, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO PERSIST IN JAKARTA, AND PUBLIC NERVOUSNESS ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL GROW.

MASTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JAKART03268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780111-0354
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780376/aaaacmqg.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a15274c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JAKARTA 3124
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3355008
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPORADIC INCIDENTS IN JAKARTA MARK OPENING OF MPR
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SOPN, ID, MPR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a15274c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014